



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 291**

February Session, 2006

\* SB00291ENVAPP032006 \*

**AN ACT REDUCING DIESEL EMISSIONS INSIDE SCHOOL BUSES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 14-275 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

3 (a) The term "school bus" means any motor bus painted,  
4 constructed, equipped and registered as hereinafter provided, which is  
5 regularly used for transporting school children to and from school or  
6 school activities whether or not for compensation or under contract to  
7 provide such service. No vehicle shall be registered as a school bus  
8 unless it complies with all requirements of sections 14-275 to 14-281,  
9 inclusive, as to color, markings, equipment and inspection, and each  
10 such vehicle shall be inspected prior to such registration in accordance  
11 with regulations prescribed by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.  
12 The commissioner or the commissioner's designee may also conduct  
13 random, unannounced inspections of any registered school bus. The  
14 provisions of said sections requiring other vehicles to stop at the signal  
15 of the operator of a registered school bus shall not apply to a signal by  
16 the operator of any vehicle not registered as a school bus and not  
17 complying with all requirements for such registration.

18 (b) Each school bus shall be painted a uniform yellow color known  
19 as "National School Bus Glossy Yellow", except for the fenders and  
20 trim which may be painted black and the roof which may be painted

21 white, and shall have conspicuously painted on the rear and on the  
22 front thereof, in black lettering of a size to be determined by the  
23 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, the words "School Bus-Stop on  
24 Signal", except that each school bus equipped with an eight-light  
25 warning system shall have the words "School Bus" painted on the rear  
26 and on the front thereof in such lettering. The sides of such vehicles  
27 may be inscribed with the words "School Bus", the school name or such  
28 other legend or device as may be necessary for purposes of  
29 identification or safety.

30 (c) Each school bus shall be equipped with special automatic,  
31 electrically-operated flashing stop signals, which shall be independent  
32 and separate from the braking, stop and tail lights of standard  
33 equipment. Such flashing lights may include automatic traffic  
34 signalling devices showing red and amber lights and shall be so  
35 located that adequate warning will be afforded to both oncoming and  
36 overtaking traffic, except that each school bus manufactured on and  
37 after October 1, 1984, and registered for use in this state shall be  
38 equipped with an eight-light warning system, showing two red  
39 flashing stop signals and two amber flashing warning signals on the  
40 front and rear of the bus, and a stop semaphore. The commissioner  
41 may adopt standards for an eight-light warning system and standards  
42 and specifications for the construction of school buses and for  
43 equipment to be maintained on school buses consistent with the  
44 provisions of sections 14-275 to 14-281, inclusive. Both public and  
45 private owners of school buses shall maintain a record of such kinds of  
46 repairs made to such buses as the commissioner may require and such  
47 work record shall be available at all times to the commissioner and the  
48 commissioner's designated assistants. All such maintenance records  
49 shall be retained for a period of two years.

50 (d) Each school bus shall be equipped with emergency lighting  
51 equipment as provided by section 14-97a, with a defrosting device as  
52 provided by section 14-97, with a system of mirrors as provided in the  
53 Code of Federal Regulations Title 49, Section 571.111, as amended, or

54 with an outside mirror as provided by section 14-99 and a system of  
55 crossover mirrors designed and mounted so as to give the driver a  
56 view of the road from the front bumper forward to a point where  
57 direct observation is possible and along the left and right sides of the  
58 bus, with a signalling device as provided by section 14-101, and with  
59 chain nonskid devices for immediate use on at least one outside or  
60 inside rear tire on each side or tires designed to prevent skidding on all  
61 rear wheels when weather and highway conditions require such use.

62 ~~(e)~~ [Commencing February 1, 1974, each] Each new school bus with  
63 a vehicle air brake system shall be so equipped that the brake system is  
64 operated from a separate air reservoir tank other than the air reservoir  
65 tank used to operate any other compressed air or vacuum operated  
66 devices with which the school bus may be equipped.

67 ~~(f)~~ The seating requirements of section 14-273 shall be observed.

68 ~~(g)~~ Notwithstanding the provisions of section 14-98, school buses  
69 may be equipped with tires incorporating a metal nonskid device  
70 during the period from October fifteenth to April thirtieth, inclusive.

71 ~~(h)~~ On and after September 1, 2008, each type I diesel powered  
72 school bus shall be equipped with a closed crank-case ventilation  
73 system designed to substantially reduce or eliminate diesel fine  
74 particulate matter emissions from entering the school bus cabin.

75 ~~[(d)]~~ ~~(i)~~ Any person who violates any provision of this section shall,  
76 for a first offense, be deemed to have committed an infraction, and for  
77 each subsequent offense shall be fined not less than one hundred  
78 dollars nor more than five hundred dollars.

79 Sec. 2. *(Effective July 1, 2006)* The sum of three million dollars is  
80 appropriated to the Department of Transportation, from the General  
81 Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, for the department to  
82 provide grants to municipalities to equip their school buses with a  
83 closed crank-case ventilation system in compliance with subsection (h)  
84 of section 14-275 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2006</i>	14-275
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2006</i>	New section

**ENV***Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

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